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Virginia J. Byers

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/691,186 Confirmation No.: 6805
Applicant : John G. ATWOOD et al.
Filed : October 22, 2003
TC/A.U. : 1744
Examiner : William H. Beisner

Attorney Docket No. : 5010-141-01
Customer No.: : 35411

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 29, 2006

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to U.S. Patent No. 5,061,630 cited on the attached Form SB/08a, which is a U.S. counterpart to the German-Language Patent Application No. EP 0 342 155 A that was cited in Applicants' previous Information Disclosure Statement dated September 16, 2004.

Petition is hereby made for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, which is being submitted after issuance of an Office Action on the merits but before any final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form SB/08a be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If

Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/691,186

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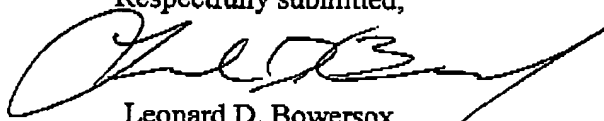
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the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in this application and applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

A Credit Card Payment Form covering the amount of \$180.00 for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is attached hereto. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this Statement to Deposit Account No. 50-0925.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard D. Bowersox
Reg. No. 33,226

KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
3603-E Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Tel: (703) 385-9688
Fax: (703) 385-9719

Enclosure: Form PTO/SB/08a (1 page)

